

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application Claims 1-4 and 6-23, of which Claims 1, 16, 19 and 20 are independent. Claims 20-23 are newly added.

In view of the above amendments and newly added claims, and following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application are respectfully sought.

Claims 1-4 and 6-15 stand allowed. With respect to the allowed claims, only Claim 1 is independent and this claim has not been further amended. Dependent Claims 7 and 9 have been amended but only to eliminate certain unnecessary features. In each case, all features of independent Claim 1 remain incorporated therein. Accordingly, it is submitted that each of Claims 1-4 and 6-15 remain in condition for allowance.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Miyazaki, et al. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Matsumoto. In view of the above amendments to those independent claims, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

As amended, independent Claim 16 now recites the step of moving the carriage to vibrate the transporting means without performing a printing after the transporting means completes a transportation of a distance and before movement of the carriage with performing a printing by the printing means when the back end of the print medium reaches a predetermined range close to the transporting means. Independent Claim 19, which is directed to the apparatus, is characterized in that at the time after the transporting roller completes the transportation of a distance and before the carriage travels with performing a printing by the print head, and in a

condition of stopping the transporting motor, the carriage motor caused the carriage to move without performing a printing by the print head when the back end of the print medium reaches a predetermined range close to the transporting means.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as recited in each of independent Claims 16 and 20 clearly differs from any of the cited references in that, for example, for the purpose of causing a roller having stopped at an unstable position to rotate to a stable position, a carriage is moved without printing to produce vibration after the transporting means completes a transportation and before printing when a rear end of a print medium reaches a predetermined range area close to the transporting means. Such features are not understood to be contained in either of the applied references. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 16 and 19, as amended, are distinguishable over the art of record.

Applicants also present herewith new independent Claim 20. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 20 differs from the applied art at least in that, for purpose of causing the roller having stopped at the unstable position to move to the stable position, a vibrating means produces vibration after the transporting means completes a transportation and before printing when a rear end of a print medium reaches a predetermined range of area close to the transporting means.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that each of the independent Claims 16, 19 and 20 are patentable over the art of record. The remaining claims in the above application not heretofore discussed are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims. In addition, each recite features of

the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicants also submit herewith replacements sheets for Figures 1, 11, 12A and 12B which are being presented with the corrections that Applicants requested in their request of July 9, 2003 and which were approved by the Examiner in the Official Action of January 22, 2004. Favorable consideration and acceptance of those replacement sheets is now respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stahl', written over a horizontal line.

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